/208 cont./

* 171 239 30 [411] [289] Feathers lend wings to the arrow, on whose shaft end two split halves of feathers are sewed opposite each other in spiral turns. Otherwise they seem to be used exclusively, but in great volume here, for ornaments, such as ear feathers, feather crowns, feather caps, feather arm bands, feather cloaks (among the Kamayurá), and in hundredfold decoration on small ornaments, where little colored bundles hung on hammocks, combs, gourd rattles, arrow throwers, masks, etc. The most magnificent ma- [825] terial was available, from the yellow, blue, red, and green of the arara, toucan, weaver birds, and parrots, from the beautiful stripes or speckles of the curassows, falcons, and owls, to the shimmering white of the herons and storks or the black of the urubu vulture. The big, broad, black-and-white striped flag [825] of the Harpyia destructor was magnificent.

* 171 [239] [412] [433] The spoils of hunting and fishing therefore offered an abundance of the most necessary things; in particular it furnished tools for cutting, scraping, polishing, piercing, boring, scratching, and digging. Agriculture assured the natives a sedentary existence and improved their economic condition, but they still remained fishermen and hunters, though to a lesser extent. They were hunters without dogs, fishermen without hooks, farmers without plow and spade. They afford us an excellent example [32] that teaches us how manifold the methods of work for the purpose of making a living could have been before the possession of any metal technique, an example that warns us about overestimating the importance of stone implements, which, of course are preserved the best and most plentifully for posterity, and about throwing indiscriminately into the great pot of the Stone Age everything that comes before the use of metal and, *in comparison* to the small span of time established for this, must embrace unimaginably long periods.

* 171 433 ● 511 [229] If one judges culture according to the extent and thoroughness with which the surrounding nature is exploited by the human beings, then our natives certainly did not stand on a low level. They hunted and fished with arrow /209/ and bow; they fished with nets, catch-baskets, and weir-baskets; they had their fish

/209 cont./

*171 433 ● 511 229 hurdles in the river, planted the stream with fences and barriers, and closed off arms of lagoons in order to confine the fish; they worked hard to clear large stretches of forest; they built themselves splendid houses, piled up considerable supplies in them, filled them with a great variety of things from an industrious craftman's skill, arrayed themselves with gay body ornaments, and decorated all their implements with graceful design. In *171 511 view of the fact that the people of Cuyabá have showered me with angry newspaper articles to the effect that I have said the savages of the Schingú had neater and better homes than many people of the Mato Grosso, I should like, without comparing reasons, to set their minds at rest by adding that even in old Europe there are plenty of villages in the mountains and along the coast where people lead a more miserable life than on the Kulisehu.

*171 241 I shall list the cultivated useful plants which we observed among the Indians. They are arranged, under A, as those that were common in the northern part of South America before the Europeans appeared, and, under B, as those that grew wild in the immediate environment.

A.

Maize	Zea mays.	Cotton	Gossypium.
Mandioca	Manihot utilissima.	Cuyeté	Crescentia cuyeté
Batatas	Convolvus batatas.	Bottle gourd	Cucurbita lagenaria.
Cará	Dioscorea.	Edible gourd	Cucurbita.
Peanut	Arachis hypogaea.	Mamona	Ricinus.
Bean	Phaseolus.	Urucú shrub	Bixa orellana.
Pepper	Capsicum.	Tobacco	Nicotiana tabacum.

B.

Bakayuva palm	Acrocomia.	Genipapo	Genipa.
Pikí	Caryocar butyrosum.	Arrow reed, ubá	Ginerium parviflorum.
Mangaba	Hancornia speciosa.	Spear grass	Scleria.
Fruta de lobo	Solanum lycocarpum.	Pita bast-plant	Fourcroya? Agave?